

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 61-65, 68-70 and 74-75 are pending in this application. Claims 63-65, 68 and 74-75 are allowed.

With this amendment, Claims 61 and 62 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claim 69 has been amended to correct the dependency upon a canceled claim. Applicants believe that the current amendments place all claims in *prima facie* condition for allowance or, at least, in a better form for consideration on appeal. Accordingly, the consideration and entry of the present amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-65, 68-70 and 74-75 are pending after entry of the instant amendment. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled matter in subsequent continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application(s).

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 61-62 and 69-70 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Fukushima *et al.* (WO 00/58668, published November 18, 1999).

Without acquiescing to the rejection, and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the instant case, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 61 and 62 have been canceled by amendment herein, and Claim 69 has been amended so as to no longer depend upon canceled Claim 61.

Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the present application is believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited. Should there be any further issues outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-1641** (referencing Attorney's Docket No. **39780-2630 P1C12**).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 27, 2007

By: B.D.G.
Barrie D. Greene (Reg. No. 46,740)

HELLER EHRLMAN LLP
275 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025
Telephone: (650) 324-7000
Facsimile: (650) 324-0638

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